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Part V

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Review of the Status of the Bliss Rapids Snail and the Snake River Physa Snail

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Review of the Status of the Bliss Rapids Snail and the Snake River Physa Snail.

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Review of the status of the Bliss Rapids snail and the Snake River physa snail, both from the Snake River, Idaho.

SUMMARY: The Service will review the status of the Bliss Rapids snail (Family Hydrobiidae) and the Snake River physa snail (*Physa* sp.). Both are found only in the Snake River, Idaho.

This action is being taken in response to a petition from Dr. Peter A. Bowler of Laguna Beach, California which presents evidence that these species may be Endangered or Threatened. Further data on the present status, possible Critical Habitats, and impacts of Critical Habitat designations are required before the Service can propose listing this species in accordance with section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

DATES: Information regarding the status of these species should be submitted on or before July 22, 1980.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons or organizations are requested to submit comments to Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr., Chief, Office of Endangered Species (703/235–2771).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 7, 1980, Dr. Peter A. Bowler petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Bliss Rapids snail (Family Hydrobiidae) and the Snake River physa snail (*Physa* sp.) as Threatened. Dr. Bowler reports that these species are being described by Dr. D. W. Taylor, who intends to publish descriptions and scientific names in the near future.

Section 4(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) state:

"General—(1) The Secretary shall by regulation determine whether any species is an Endangered species or a Threatened species because of any of the following factors:

(1) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;

(2) Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes;

(3) Disease or predation;

(4) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanism; or

(5) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence."

This authority has been delegated to the Director.

The Service has determined that the Bliss Rapids snail and the Snake River physa snail may be Endangered or Threatened because of factors (1) and (4). These findings are based on information in Dr. Bowler's petition, which is summarized below.

The Bliss Rapids snail is restricted to shallow water riffle habitat in the A. J. Wiley Reach of the Snake River in Gooding and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho. The Snake River physa snail has been found in the same habitat and localities as the Bliss Rapids snail, as well as in the Snake River near Homedale, Owyhee County, Idaho.

The habitat of both species in the A. J. Wiley Reach is threatened by impoundment that would result from the A. J. Wiley Project.

These unique species are remnants of the extensive late Pleistocene freshwater fauna of southern Idaho.

The Service is soliciting any additional information on these species, including data on their taxonomic status, distribution, habitat requirements recommended Critical Habitats, and possible economic and other impacts of designating such areas as Critical Habitat. This information will be evaluated to determine if these species should be proposed for listing as Endangered or Threatened, and whether Critical Habitat should be designated.

This notice of review was prepared by Dr. Steven M. Chambers, Office of Endangered species (703/235–1975).

Dated: April 17, 1980.

Robert S. Cook,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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